

REMARKS

This is a Reply to the Office Action of June 12, 2008. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering the present application, and for allowing claim 20.

Status of Claims

Claims 9-20 are currently pending in the above-captioned patent application. Claims 9 and 20 are independent.

Claims 9, 11-14, 16, 18 and 19 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over USPN 5,956,487 to Venkatraman et al. ("Venkatraman") in view of USPN 6,148,346 to Hanson ("Hanson"). Claims 15 and 17 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Venkatraman and Hanson and further in view of USPN 5,938,726 to Reber et al. ("Reber"). Claim 20 has been allowed. Claim 10 is objected to.

Claim Amendments

By way of this Reply, dependent claim 10 has been canceled. Independent claim 9 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 10. As asserted in the Office Action, claim 10 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Therefore, Applicant respectfully asserts that amended claim 9 is allowable.

Rejection of Claims 9, 11-14, 16, 18 and 19 under 35 USC §103(a)

Rejection of claims 9, 11-14, 16, 18 and 19 under §103(a) as being unpatentable over Venkatraman in view of Hanson is respectfully traversed because the claims include limitations not taught or suggested by the cited references, whether considered separately or in combination.

As asserted above, claim 9 is now placed in allowable form. Claims 11-14, 16 and 18-19 depend from amended claim 9. Therefore, claims 11-14, 16 and 18-19 are allowable for at least the same reason.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims 15 and 17 under 35 USC §103(a)

Rejection of claims 15 and 17 under §103(a) as being unpatentable over Venkatraman and Hanson in view of Reber is respectfully traversed because the claims include limitations not taught or suggested by the cited references, whether considered separately or in any combination.

As asserted above, claim 9 is now placed in allowable form. Claims 15 and 17 depend from amended claim 9. Therefore, claims 15 and 17 are allowable for at least the same reason.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections of the claims be withdrawn, and that the case be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone interview would be helpful to the further prosecution of this case, it is respectfully requested that the undersigned attorney be contacted at the listed telephone number.

Please direct all correspondence to **Myers, Dawes Andras & Sherman, LLP**, 19900 MacArthur Blvd., 11th Floor, Irvine, California 92612.

Respectfully submitted,

/MZ/

Michael Zarrabian
Registration No. 39,886
Myers Dawes Andras & Sherman, LLP
19900 MacArthur Blvd., 11th Floor
Irvine, CA 92612
(949) 223-9600
(949) 223-9610 – Fax
Customer No.: 23386